

**REMARKS****I. Allowed Claims**

Claims 18 and 19 were allowed. The remaining rejected claims 9 to 12, 16 and 17 have been canceled, so that a patent can issue in advantageously expedited manner for the claimed measurement procedure according to claims 18 and 19.

**II. Anticipation Rejection of Probe Claims**

Probe claims 9 to 12, 16 and 17 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) by Choulga, et al (WO 96/12176).

Probe claims 9 to 12, 16 and 17 have been canceled, obviating their rejection as anticipated by Choulga, et al.

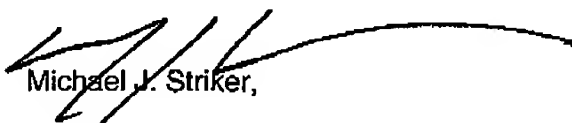
**III. Further Prosecution**

Applicants intend to file a continuation-in-part application including additional details of the preferred measurement probes for use in the claimed measurement procedure.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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